

Emmanuel Friedens Church



The Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025 10:00 AM

*A Welcoming, Open and Affirming Congregation
American Baptist and United Church of Christ Congregation*

Welcome to Emmanuel Friedens Church

Our worship service will be held in the Sanctuary at 10 am.
Online Worship will also be available at 10 AM live on Facebook and Zoom
(see below)

Facebook Live from the Emmanuel Friedens Church Facebook page

Log in to Facebook, and go to the Emmanuel Friedens page on Sunday morning.

If you have difficulty locating it, the link is: <https://www.facebook.com/Emmanuel-Friedens-Church-122934277889274/>

If you have a Facebook account and want to be notified about Emmanuel Friedens events, log into Facebook, go the Emmanuel Friedens Church Page and click “Like”.

The service will “go live” at 9:55 am to allow time to find it on Facebook before the service begins at 10 am.

OR

Join Zoom gathering

Zoom by internet:

<https://zoom.us/j/7050534826?pwd=eWdMNmJBT0FpK1ZHeE1jS0ZyNUVZQT09>

Meeting ID: 705 053 4826 Password: 063310

***Please note: To connect to Zoom, please hold down
the “control key-CTRL” and hit the link.***

This should connect to Zoom.

Then enter the meeting ID and password

Dial by any phone (voice and sound only)

1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 705 053 4826 Password: 063310

A recorded video version of this service

will be available after 11 AM on Sunday mornings. At a time of your choice, go to the church’s website, <http://emmanuelfriedens.org/> and click on the link located on the Home page for the video of that day.

The Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 14, 2025
Order of Worship



Prelude

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Traditional

***Performed by: Emilia & Emmanuel Reyes
Minister of Music: Dianna Parisi



Words of Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Katy Stenta



Call to Worship

Rev. Dr. Katy Stenta

God will nourish the land, so that the land itself will blossom with joy.

All will know God’s glory, weak hands will be made strong.

Say to those with a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear, Here is your God.”

We will rejoice in the healing of God, no traveler will be harmed by wild animals.

All shall safely and joyfully be able to go our merry way.

We can rejoice together



+Opening Hymn

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”
(Verses 1&2)

The New Century Hymnal
(Black) #126



+The Peace of Christ

Pastor: The Peace of Jesus Christ be with you all

People: And also with you.



The Prayers of the People (Celebrations and Concerns)

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer (Traditional)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.**

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.



Scripture Readings

Psalm 146:5-10, James 5:7-10. Isaiah 35:1-10

EFC Children



The Children's Message

Rev. Dr. Katy Stenta

The Lighting of the Advent Candle - Joy

Advent Song (Light the Advent Candle)

(Verse 3)

Refer to Insert
Words/Music by Mary Lou Walker



Special Music

"Gesù Bambino"

Text by Frederick H Martens
music by Pietro A. Yon
***Vocal Soloist: Carla Fisk



Prayer of Confession: **God, we confess that joy does not feel abundant. Too often it feels thready or like a demand. Help us to tend what needs to be tended, knowing the Jesus tends joy for us even when we can't. (Silent Confession) Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon: Know the Good News, Christ loves us abundantly, so we can live into the reality: **(All) In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.**

Sermon

"God the Gardener: "The Blossoms of Joy"

Rev. Dr. Katy Stenta



Call for the Offertory

"I Saw Three Ships"

Traditional Irish Carol
arr. Richard Walters
***Vocal Soloist: Carla Fisk



Doxology

Praise God, the Love we all may share;
Praise God, the Beauty ev'rywhere,
Praise God, the Hope of Good to be;
Praise God, the Truth that make us free



+Offertory Prayer **God may we live into the joy that we have, and share it with all that we meet in the world. Amen.**



+Closing Hymn

"Angels We Have Heard on High"
(Verses 1&2)

Hymns for the Living Church
(Red) #113



+Blessing and Dismissal



Postlude

"Joyful"

Traditional
arr. Jim Brickman

+ Please stand, if you are able

As a Welcoming and Affirming/Open and Affirming Church, Emmanuel Friedens Church welcomes and affirms all persons without regard to gender, marital status, age, race, sexual orientation, or abilities, inviting all into membership, mission and leadership.

The Babyfold is open during worship but there is no scheduled supervision.

Hearing assists are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Fellowship Time: Following the worship service, please join us in Fellowship hall for our fellowship meal.

Visitors Invitation: All visitors are invited to sign into the red book at the entryway of the sanctuary.

Announcements for the Week of December 14, 2025

Let us welcome Soprano, Carla Fisk, to our worship service this morning.

About Carla

Carla Fisk, regional finalist of the Metropolitan Opera's National Council Auditions, has performed in many operas in Europe and the United States. In Rome, Italy she was chosen to sing on Italian National Television (RAI Uno), performing Hanna from *Die Lustige Witwe*. She then went on to be a part of the Baltimore Opera's Young Artist Program singing the role of *Beauty in Beauty and the Beast* by Giannini (an Educational Outreach Opera) and performing the role of Despina in *Così fan Tutte*. They asked her back to sing the role of Second Lady in *Die Zauberflöte* directed by Werner Herzog and conducted by William Crutchfield with the main stage of Baltimore Opera. In her performing career, she has sung the role of the Contessa in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, The title role in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, Donna Anna in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Mimi in Puccini's *La Bohème*, Nedda in Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*, and Laetitia from Menotti's *The Old Maid and The Thief*.

Since moving to the Albany area, she has started a vocal studio and was featured in 2016 in the Times Union Women at Work "Women in the Arts" series. She also has performed in the capital region as the soprano soloist in oratorio works such as Handel's *Messiah*, Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Mozart's *Coronation Mass and Requiem*, Fauré's *Requiem*, Einhorn's *Voices of Light* and Poulenc's *Gloria*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. While not performing, she enjoys teaching voice and is an active member of the Northeast region NATS chapter.



Our Candlelight Service begins @ 7 pm –a service of lessons and carols. It will be a lovely service-we hope you, your family members and friends will be able to attend.

Fellowship Meal-Today, December 14: Please join us in Fellowship Hall following the worship service. The meal will be “make your own tacos.’

2026 Stewardship Campaign: Giving Sunday continues every day. Please mail your 2026 pledges to the office. Being able to tally everyone’s intentions helps to prepare our 2026 budget. Thank you. Pledge cards are located at the back of the sanctuary.

Poinsettia Order: If you would like to order a poinsettia for the holiday season, forms are located at the back of the sanctuary. Orders are due on Sunday, December 14.

December’s Community Brunch: The next brunch will be held on Saturday, December 27. We will not be cooking but are hoping for donations of egg bakes. We need the following:

10 egg bakes without meat
10 egg bakes with meat
10 French toast bakes **plus**
Bottles/cartons of OJ
And Christmas cookies and bagged candy

Please bring these items to the kitchen on 12/27 (brunch day) no later than 9 am. **The bakes must be hot since at this time we do not have a stove.**

We also need volunteers for the brunch to come in early and make waffles.

The upcoming seasonal weather has opened our eyes to the needs in our immediate neighborhood. There are still so many people who are living outside and in shelters. Thank you to the Albany Medical Interventional Radiology Bottle Club (Nancy’s group)- they raised about \$200 again this year for our toiletries mission!!

We will be giving out 30 **New Years Breakfast bags** during the brunch on Saturday, December 27. Deb Lent has once again secured items, 30 doz. eggs and 30 gallon milk plus muffins, bacon and sausage from Stewarts-thank you Deb.

Additional items still needed are the following:

30 pancake mixes, 30 bottles of syrup, 30 cans/bags of coffee, and sugar packets.

Sign-up sheets are at the back of the sanctuary or just call the office or Nancy Spencer 518-817-1956 regarding your donations.

We plan on assembling the breakfast bags on December 26 so we need donations **by December 24**. If we do not receive enough donations, we will just purchase what is needed. Please place your items on the kitchen counter (by the sink).

As always, thanks for your generosity. Nancy Spencer

Giving During the Advent Season:

- The Mitten and More Tree: This tree, which is located at the back of the sanctuary, is for donations of **new** mittens/gloves, and hats, socks for children and adults, and underwear. Bring in your items through December 28. Items will be given to the Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus in Albany (RISSE).

If you would like to make a monetary donation for the Mitten Tree, please send your donation to the church or if you are attending worship services, just place your donation in the box. Thank you.

Meeting/Events:

- Every Sunday: Choir: The choir meets for rehearsal at 9 am in the choir/music room. Every one of all levels are invited to join the choir to make a joyful noise to God! The choir will sing once a month in worship and for special occasions.
- **EFC Federated Council Meeting** will be held on Monday, December 15 at 6:30 pm in the Board Room.
- **Oh! Holy Hops** will gather on Thursday, December 18-5:30 pm at the home of Mary Lou Chotkowski, 733 Sacandaga Rd in Scotia. Please bring a dish to share and your beverage. We will celebrate the holidays.

Monthly Birthday Celebrations: Don't forget to record your birthdate on the calendar located on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Our next birthday celebration (Dec. 28) will be for December birthdays – Nancy Spencer (12/26). So, make sure you record the date of your December birthday.

Thank you to Jeanne and Ray for hanging the large wreath that hangs above the Baptistry this week.

Community News:

- St. Joseph's Church 19th Annual Pre-Holiday Bake Sale on December 20 from 4:30 -6:30 pm and December 21 from 8:30 -10:30 am. Check out the flyer on the bulletin board.

Emmanuel Friedens Church



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www.facebook.com/emmanuelfriedenschurch*

Staff

Pastor		Rev. Dr. Kathryn Stenta
Music Director		Dianna Parisi
Office Administrator		Maria Puccio
Custodian		Dave Snyder

Church Hours

Pastor's Hours: Pastor Katy will be available for appointments Monday-Thursday. She will have open door office hours (no appointment necessary) every Tuesday from 9:30-11:30 am. Friday is her Sabbath Day. Telephone number and email: 518-380-6922., katyandtheword@gmail.com.

For emergency pastoral care, please contact Pastor Katy directly (see above) or through the church office.

Church Office: Monday-Friday, 9:30 am –3:30 pm

Custodian: M-W, 3:30-8:00 pm; Th., 3:30 - 9:30 pm; F, 3:30 - 7:30 pm